



City Councilmember
Carl DeMaio

News Release

DeMaio Proposes Action Plan to Help Small Businesses

“Open for Business” Plan Contains 8 Reforms to Help Make San Diego More Small Business Friendly

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CONTACT: Jeff Powell, 619-236-6655

San Diego – Flanked by a number of small business advocates, City Councilmember Carl DeMaio today released an extensive action plan proposing big changes to how the City of San Diego interacts with local small businesses – such as migrating at least 95% of all business transactions online, streamlining regulations, consolidating small business grants, and refocusing the City’s Office of Small Business.

“Too often our city government has been a hindrance rather than a help to our small businesses. With these reforms we seek to fundamentally change the processes and culture at City Hall to help our local small businesses succeed in this tough economy,” commented DeMaio.

The release of the “Open for Business” plan caps an exhaustive research and outreach process conducted by DeMaio’s office that featured a series of Town Hall forums with small business owners, meetings with business and trade organizations, and research on best practices from cities and counties across the nation.

DeMaio’s plan has won the support of a number of small business advocacy groups who joined him at the press conference. “Small business owners are currently drowning in a sea of red tape – and I applaud this effort to streamline city processes for small businesses,” commented Ruben Garcia, District Director for the Small Business Administration. “The plan’s commitment to putting city-business transactions online is long overdue and would be extremely helpful to Small Business owners,” commented Vince Vasquez, Senior Policy Analyst for the National University System Institute for Policy Research. “We appreciate the plan’s call for supporting and expanding our city’s successful business improvement districts,” commented Patrick Edwards of the Business Improvement District Council. “We support the recommendation that the city pursue an Online Permitting Wizard starting with the restaurant sector,” added Katie Hansen of the California Restaurant Association.

State-wide small business groups are also praising the plan. “San Diego would be wise to implement these reforms, as broad-based economic recovery always begins with the small businesses sector,” noted Joel Fox of California’s Small Business Action Committee.

To view the full report please visit: www.cleanupcityhall.com.

8 Priority Small Business Reforms

- #1 Achieve 95% of Permitting Transactions Online Within 5 Years
- #2 Strengthen and Expand Business Improvement Districts
- #3 Redefine the Role of the City’s Office of Small Business
- #4 Consolidate Small Business Enhancement Grants
- #5 Streamline Special Event Permits
- #6 Explore Countywide Licenses
- #7 Expand Access to City Contracts Opportunities
- #8 Resist Tax and Fee Increases